

CPYRGHT

Mother to See Captive Son

HONG KONG, Aug. 5 (AP) — Mrs. Mary Downey of New Britain, Conn., arrived by plane today en route to her second visit to her son in a Chinese Communist prison.

John J. Downey, 32, a civilian employe of the United States Army, was sentenced to a life term on espionage charges in 1952. He was captured with another American after an Air Force plane crashed in China on a flight from Japan to Korea.

Mrs. Downey said she had no special plan to plead with the Peking government for leniency for her son, "but if the occasion arises I'll make the most of the opportunity."

"I don't know why, but I feel in my heart he will be released someday," she told reporters.

Mrs. Downey, who was met by a representative of the United States consulate general, is scheduled to cross the border into Red China next Thursday.

Mrs. Downey first visited her son in Red China in January, 1958. Another son, William, visited John last July.

Mrs. Downey said she was carrying candy, clothes and books for John but declined to discuss her visit in detail.

"It's just a case of a mother seeing her son," she said.

Chinese Communist authorities admitted another American, William C. Walsh, of Cumberland, Md., on Monday to visit his imprisoned brother, Catholic Bishop James E. Walsh. The 69-year-old bishop was sentenced to 20 years in prison last March on charges of espionage and conspiring to overthrow the Peking government.